PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERESPECTATION.

In re application of

Riviere et al.

Appln. No.: 08/252,710

Filed: 2 June 1994

OLD 2 2 7000 S. J. T. TRADENHER

Group Art Unit: 1655

Examiner: J. Fredman

For: RETROVIRAL GENE THERAPY VECTORS AND THERAPEUTIC METHODS BASED THEREON

REPLY BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.193

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I reply to the Examiner's Answer mailed 26 October 2000, Appellants herein reply to new points raised therein.

Appellants have presented evidence and the Examiner concurred, along with evidence, that the art recognized the concept of a consensus splice acceptor site prior to the filing of the instant application.

On page 5, the Examiner referred to MPEP 2163.04. Regarding the second prong of the test, Appellants disagree the Examiner has satisfied that element.

Because a consensus represents the "average" deduced sequence, by definition <u>a</u> splice acceptor as taught in the instant specification is one that comports with the consensus splice acceptor. While a particular splice acceptor can have a sequence identical to a consensus, it is

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more likely that the sequence of a particular splice acceptor instead would fall under the

umbrella of the generic consensus. For example, a consensus may have at a site, more than one

possible base, such as a pyrimidine, and the particular acceptor might have a T or a C at that site.

Moreover, as noted at page 15 of the specification, a splice acceptor is situated as close to

and upstream from the insertion site of the gene of interest for proper splicing.

Thus, an artisan who reads the specification and notes that a vector of interest contains a

splice acceptor or a particular splice acceptor at a particular locus in the vector, clearly would

recognize, absent evidence to the contrary, that those contain the consensus or fall within the

scope of the consensus.

At the bottom of page 5, the Examiner asked whether MOV-9 is a consensus sequence.

Perhaps a more relevant inquiry is whether the MOV-9 splice acceptor has a sequence

that falls within the definition of the consensus. Because the consensus is derived from

individual splice acceptor sites, any one splice acceptor site is inherently a member of the

consensus, absent evidence to the contrary.

Consensus, thus is coextensive with the disclosure that teaches a splice acceptor.

ctfully submitted,

Dean H. Nakamura

Registration No. 33,981

ROYLANCE, ABRAMS, BERDO & GOODMAN, L.L.P.

1300 19TH Street, N.W., Suite 600

Washington, D.C. 20036-2680

Telephone: (202) 695-9076 Date: 22 December 2000